

Legislative Subcommittees Consider New Budget Bill

By Vincent Thomas
 Assemblyman, 46th District
 Now that the Governor has submitted the budget and his tax recommendations, the tempo of our legislative actions has stepped up considerably. Under the new law approved by the voters last November, the budget bill is the only measure which can be reviewed immediately in committee without special action of the whole house.
 No one was particularly surprised by the size of the budget total—\$2 billion, 188 million. Up about 9 percent over appropriations for the current year, the budget request again sets a new high for all the states in the nation.
 As might have been expected, reaction to the recommendation for an annual total of \$256 million in new and additional taxes was mixed. There are those among us who agree with the Governor that additional revenue is needed now.

There are also those who feel equally strongly that judicious use of existing reserves, plus economy in appropriations for the operating expenses of our state government, will make new taxes unnecessary.

CONSIDERATION of the budget bill will be a lengthy and laborious process. On the Assembly side, the ways and means committee will break itself down into a number of subcommittees, each of which will hold hearings on the budget items for one department, or one function within a department. Many hours of patient review will be needed before each subgroup can report its findings to the full committee, and more time will elapse before the whole bill reaches the floor of the assembly for a vote on passage.
 In the meantime, the Senate finance committee will pursue a similar course in its consideration of the budget.

TO ASSIST the committees and their sub-groups in the review process will be two task forces of budget specialists, one from the department of finance, and the other from our own legislative analyst's office. A detailed examination of the whole budget will be prepared by the analyst, and printed copies of it will be given to every member of the legislature for information and use.

Spokesmen for the finance department will explain, and when necessary defend, the budget items. Specialists from the legislative analyst's staff may concur in their recommendations, in which case there is ordinarily no debate over the items involved. When differences between the two agencies do exist, they are thoroughly explored by the committees.

OTHER committees, the revenue and tax groups of the Senate and Assembly will consider the proposals for new and increased taxes. They, too, will have the advice and assistance of specialists from the finance department and our own legislative staff. If past experience can be trusted as a guide, the hearings of these tax committees will attract much greater attendance from the general public than those on the budget itself. There will also probably be much greater public participation in the discussion of the various tax proposals.

This detailed study and action on both the spending program and the taxes needed to pay for it is perhaps the most important function of the legislature. Many people do not stop to think that legislative action on budget and revenues determines the kind and quality of state government that every Californian will get during the coming year, the amount of service he will get, and how much he will pay for it.

DR. HOLMES TO TALK
 Dr. Ernest Holmes will give an expository talk at the South Bay Church of Religious Science today at 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA Building, 2320 Carson St.

Dr. Holmes is founder of the Religious Science Churches and is author and publisher of the Science of Mind Magazine.

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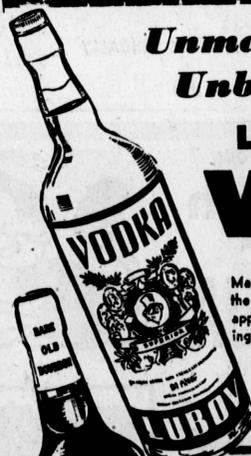
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ENTERTAIN SCOUTS . . . Highlighting the annual blue and gold dinner held by Cub Scout Troop 966C Sunday, Feb. 8, was the appearance of Jim Davis of Rescue 8 and the Order of the Arrow Dancers, who enacted tribal dances for the cub scouts. Davis showed the group a film "The Cliff" from his television series.

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